

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes comprising:

~~1.1.—a profile element made of solid strong sheet material, like e.g. metal or plastic material, which wherein the profile element consists of an infinite profile comprising comprises:~~

~~1.1.1.—a mainly straightly directed horizontal part that tapers off on both sides [[over]]at an angle of approximately 90° to 1.1.2.—a first downwardly directed vertical part and 1.1.3.—a second downwardly directed vertical part; which is in a position parallel or notto the first vertical part;~~

~~wherein at least one of the vertical profile parts of the profile element is 1.1. 2,1. 1.3longitudinally-being provided at mutually regular distances with cut-away portions for the insertion of 1.2.—at least one or more a hollow functional sockets for interconnection of the vertical profile parts 1.1. 2,1. 1.3to a compact unit;~~

~~which functional socket is interfixed by the application of an appropriate method; known per se, like e.g. welding, this~~

~~wherein the functional socket is also-being provided with internal threading to receive an appropriate coupling element or module for use in a machine building construction,; like e.g. an adapter socket, provided with a mating external threading; and~~

~~one and another in such a way that wherein girders and vertical stands for the construction of a machine,like e.g. a packaging machine for the food industry, may be entirely constructed from are coupled to one or more of such profile elements 1.1 with one or more functional sockets 1.2, resulting in a for machine construction, eharacterized in that it is very flexible, robust and allowing the profilesbeing interiorly good cleanable, thereby decreasing hygienic risks.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional—A Multifunctional—constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to claim 1, eharacterized—in thatwherein both the profile element as well as the hollow functional socket are made of stainless steel.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The multifunctional~~Multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to claim 1 ~~or 3, characterized in that in~~
~~awherein the~~ cross-section of the profile element is C-or U-shaped and ~~having~~has a wall thickness of approximately 2 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The multifunctional~~Multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~wherein the hollow functional socket is of cylindrical shape.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A packaging~~Packaging machine comprising at least a machine frame or a vertical stand-up construction which is completely constructed out of one or more multifunctional constructional modular elements for machine-building according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The packaging~~Packaging machine according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the machine frame is of a uniform width, and wherein the differently chosen coupling elements, modules, and chain guide profiles ~~or such like being~~ are mounted on the frame by means of one or more adapter or functional sockets, ~~one and another~~ in such a way that every desirable foil width to be used in the packaging process will be applicable.

7. (New) The packaging machine according to claim 6, wherein the coupling elements are provided with a joint face for close fitting into the positioning hole.

8. (New) The multifunctional constructional modular element for machine building purposes according to claim 1, wherein the hollow functional socket is provided with a positioning hole adjacent to the cut-away portion.